

Environmental Design Program

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The Green Building Network

Information and Training

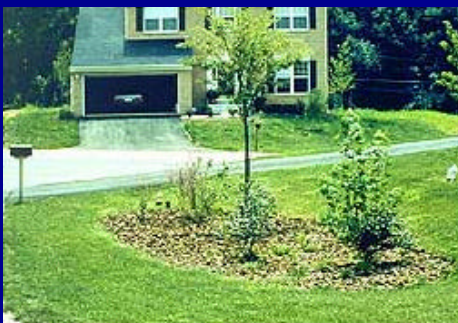
Initiated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Green Building Network (GBN) is the leading provider of information and training opportunities between architects, builders, contractors, developers, planners, landscape architects, business professionals, and interested citizens. Numbering over 1000 individuals and affiliations, the GBN focuses on advancing the design and construction of buildings, and the development of sites, in a manner that is economically and environmentally responsible; enhances the efficient use of materials and natural resources; protects ecosystems, habitats and hydrology, and promotes sustainable communities.

The Green Building Network In Practice

Since 1998, the GBN, through monthly meetings and an electronic newsletter, provides interested professionals and citizens with the opportunity to meet, share information, and highlight successful green building and environmental design projects throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The GBN was designed to facilitate the educational process and transfers state-of-the-art information in the following areas:

Sustainable Buildings: Involves making buildings more energy efficient and resource conserving. Examples include using recycled materials, incorporating passive-solar and other energy efficient architectural designs, and installing energy efficient appliances and water efficient plumbing fixtures.

Site Development: Involves promoting the design and development of land in an environmentally responsible manner. Principles include minimizing the loss of native vegetation, designing landscapes consistent with natural contours, and preserving the land's natural hydrologic regime.



Site design technique such as rain gardens, pictured above, is an example of the topics discussed at GBN meetings.



Information and Training: Through a statewide network of local government, business and industry professionals, the Environmental Design Program is the leading provider of information and training opportunities on innovative building and design techniques in Maryland.

Local Government Planning: Involves achieving environmentally responsible building and site designs by assisting local governments to generate codes, ordinances and development policies that minimize environmental impact and reduce imperviousness.

Getting Involved in the GBN

Interested parties are always warmly invited to GBN meetings or to receive the electronic newsletter. They are held on the first Tuesday of every month, except for holidays, and begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. at various locations in the Baltimore/Annapolis/Washington DC area. To become a member or to learn more about the GBN, contact Sean McGuire at smcguire@dnr.state.md.us or by calling 410.260.8727.

To learn more about the Green Building Network or other services offered by the Environmental Design Program, check www.dnr.state.md.us/ed or call 410.260.8710.



Advancing the application of economically sound and environmentally sensitive building and site-design techniques. The Environmental Design Program is an Education, Bay Policy and Growth Management project of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and is funded in part through the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Award No. NA17OZ1124. For more information: Tel: (410) 260.8710 www.dnr.state.md.us/ed.

